

(iii) Buses which allow boarding and de-boarding of passengers at busy intersections are prosecuted.

(iv) The slow moving vehicles are not allowed on main road/busy road during restricted hours.

Chief Secretaries Conference

4927. SHRI RAM NAIK : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry are aware of the recommendations made in the conference of Chief Secretaries held in January, 1997;

(b) if so, the salient features of the recommendations; and

(c) the action taken or proposed to be taken to implement these recommendations?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MOHD. MAQBOOL DAR) : (a) According to the information received from the Department of Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances, a Conference of Chief Secretaries of States/UTs was held on 20.11.1996.

(b) The important recommendations made were as follows:

(i) There is a need for reorganisation of work procedures, delegation down the line and an effective management information system accessible to all. Simultaneous steps to address the rightsizing of public service are necessary.

(ii) The approach to the elimination of corruption in the public service needs to address prevention, surveillance and deterrent prosecution, and deal ruthlessly with the nexus between criminals and unscrupulous elements.

(iii) The Government of India and State Government should draw up a Charter of Ethics and Civil Service Code for the Civil Service.

(iv) The State Government will be requested to devise suitable mechanism including a high powered Civil Service Board and amend relevant rules for transparent decisions on postings, promotions, and transfers of officials at all levels.

(v) It is necessary to introduce greater transparency and openness in the functioning of Government and public bodies. This would cover, for example, movement towards a Right to Information Act.

(vi) Accountability should be interpreted in a larger sense in order to ensure public satisfaction and responsive delivery of services. For this purpose, a phased introduction

of Citizens Charter for as many service institutions as possible could be considered.

(c) The recommendations of the Conference were given wide publicity and were followed up within the Central Government and with State Governments for urgent processing. It is proposed to place an Action Plan soon before a conference of Chief Ministers.

12.01 hrs.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Just a moment please. Today we have guillotining at six O' clock. Before that four Ministries, concerning Energy, have been listed for discussion today. It is very important for us to discuss them - the Ministry of Power, the Ministry of Coal, the Department of Non-Conventional Energy Sources and the Department of Atomic Energy. Therefore, there will be no zero hour today. But I will try to compensate it tomorrow and on the following day. Since this is very important subject and four Ministers have to intervene, we, therefore, need more time to discuss.

Since Shri Chandra Shekhar has something to say, I am just allowing him to raise it.

SHRI G.A. CHARAN REDDY (Nizamabad) : Sir, one hour of question time was taken for two questions only.

MR. SPEAKER : I know it.

.... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Let us give him some time.

12.02 hrs.

RE: APPOINTMENT OF AN OFFICER ON SPECIAL DUTY IN P.M.O.

[English]

SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR (Ballia) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, with anguish and deep concern I am going to read a letter that was published on 30th May, 1974, just after the explosion of nuclear device in India. The letter was published in *The New York Times* and the letter was written by one of today's officials of the Government of India. It is a matter of grave concern because it does not only put a question mark about the national policies but also ask the Super Powers to intervene in the affairs of this country. I do not know what prompted the present Government to appoint this officials in a very key position.

Mr. Speaker, I shall be failing in my national duty if I do not bring to your notice, to the notice of this House and to the people of this country about the gravity of the appointment of this official. I may be permitted to read. I